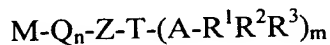


B1
cancel

~~n is >0 and <1; and
m is 1.~~

Please cancel Claims 2, 4 and 7-16.

17. (amended) A hydrocarbon composition comprising one or more protected functionalized chain extended anionic polymerization initiators or the formula



wherein:

M is lithium;

Q is a saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbyl group derived by incorporation of at least one conjugated diene hydrocarbons or mixtures thereof;

Z is a straight chain hydrocarbon connecting group which contains 3-25 carbon atoms;

T is oxygen;

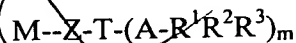
(A-R¹R²R³)_m is a protecting group in which A is carbon and R¹, R², and R³ are alkyl;

n is >0 and <1; and

m is 1.

Please cancel Claims 18-20.

21. (amended) The composition of Claim 20, wherein said at least one additional initiator comprises one or more non-Chain extended compounds of the formula



wherein:

M is lithium;

Q is a saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbyl group derived by incorporation of at least one conjugated diene hydrocarbons or mixtures thereof;

Z is a straight chain hydrocarbon connecting group which contains 3-25 carbon atoms;

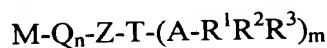
T is oxygen;

$(A-R^1R^2R^3)_m$ is a protecting group in which A is carbon and R^1 , R^2 , and R^3 are alkyl;

n is >0 and <1 ; and

m is 1.

22. (amended) The composition of Claim 20, wherein said at least one additional initiator comprises one or more chain extended compounds of the formula



wherein:

M is lithium;

Q is a saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbyl group derived by incorporation of at least one conjugated diene hydrocarbons or mixtures thereof;

Z is a straight chain hydrocarbon connecting group which contains 3-25 carbon atoms;

T is oxygen;

$(A-R^1R^2R^3)_m$ is a protecting group in which A is carbon and R^1 , R^2 , and R^3 are alkyl;

n is >0 and <1 ; and

m is 1.

Please cancel Claims 23, 24 and 26.

27. (amended) The composition of Claim 25, wherein Q comprises isoprene.